

Message Text

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15
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 /081 W

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R 161198Z SEP 76
FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4204
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, ELAB, TS, LY
SUBJECT: LIBYAN TRADE UNION VISIT TO TUNIS SIGNALS FURTHER
IMPROVEMENT IN BILATERAL RELATIONS

REF: TUNIS 2384, TUNIS 6262

1. SEPTEMBER 12 TUNIS PRESS REPORTED THAT DELEGATION REPRESENTING THE GENERAL UNION OF WORKERS OF THE LAR HEADED BY HAJ MOKHTAR GRABAA VISITED TUNIS ON SEPTEMBER 9 TO 11. DELEGATION MET WITH GENERAL UNION OF TUNISIAN WORKERS (UGTT) SECRETARY GENERAL HABIB ACHOUR AND, ACCORDING TO PRESS ACCOUNT, DISCUSSED BILATERAL RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES AND TWO LABOR MOVEMENTS, IN COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT END OF VISIT, UGTT ANNOUNCED THAT IT WOULD ATTEND THE ARAB PEOPLES' CONGRESS WHICH WILL BE HELD IN TRIPOLI ON OCTOBER 7 TO DISCUSS SUPPORT FOR THE PALESTINIAN RESISTANCE AND PROGRESSIVE FORCES IN LEBANON.

2. UGTT PLAYED IMPORTANT ROLE IN MARCH-APRIL PROPAGANDA
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WAR BETWEEN TUNISIA AND LIBYA BY REFUSING TO ATTEND OATUU

CONGRESS HELD IN TRIPOLI AND SEEKING TO HAVE SITE OF
CONGRESS CHANGED. UGTT LEADER ACHOUR HAS NOW APPARENTLY
BEEN TALKED INTO JOINING THE RAPPROCHEMENT BY THE GOT
BY RECEIVING LIBYAN TRADE UNIONISTS AND SENDING DELEGATION
TO LARG-SPONSORED MEETING. GOT SOCIAL AFFAIRS MINISTER
MOHAMED ENNACEUR PROMISED AT THE CONCLUSION OF HIS
MISSION TO TRIPOLI (TO ATTEND LIBYA'S SEPTEMBER 1
ANNIVERSARY) THAT OTHER MOVES TOWARD IMPROVING RELATIONS
WOULD FOLLOW. IT APPEARS THAT VISIT OF LIBYAN TRADE
UNION DELEGATION TO TUNIS AND PROMISE OF TUNISIAN ATTENDANCE
IN OCTOBER 7 MEETINGS IN TRIPOLI ARE PART OF THESE EFFORTS.
THEY HAVE LITTLE SUBSTANCE, HOWEVER, BUT ARE SIGNIFICANT
BECAUSE THEY INDICATE BOTH GOVERNMENTS CONTINUE TO WORK
TOWARD IMPROVED RELATIONS.
MULCAHY

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